

First Church of Deerfield (Brick Church)
On west side of Old Deerfield Street,
at center of village
Deerfield Village
Franklin County
Massachusetts

639
HABS No. MASS-443

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6-DEER
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PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA
REDUCED COPIES OF MEASURED DRAWINGS

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Eastern Office, Division of Design and Construction
143 South Third Street
Philadelphia 6, Pennsylvania

ADDENDUM
FOLLOWS

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

HABS No. MASS-413

FIRST CHURCH OF DEERFIELD (BRICK CHURCH)

639
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6-DEER
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Location: On west side of Old Deerfield Street, at center of Deerfield Village, Franklin County, Massachusetts

Present Owner: First Church of Deerfield, Deerfield, Massachusetts

Present Occupant: First Church of Deerfield

Present Use: Church

Brief Statement of Significance: This representative, well-proportioned Classical Revival meeting house has been a central building in the religious and social life of its community for 135 years.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Original and subsequent owners: Built with Town of Deerfield funds, the Town being reimbursed by sale of pews to members of the congregation. It has always remained in the same hands [Pamphlet of the First Church of Deerfield].
2. Date of erection: Cornerstone laid June 1, 1824; dedicated December 22, 1824 [Sheldon, A History of Deerfield, Mass., 1636-1886, vol. 2, pp. 801-803].
3. Architect: Not known
4. Builder, suppliers, etc.: Some of the white pine timber was furnished by Samuel Moore of Warwick [Sheldon, A History of Deerfield, Mass., 1636-1886, vol. 2, pp. 801-803].
5. Notes on alterations and additions: The weathercock came from an earlier church building (1731), renovated in 1768 and 1824, and again in recent years after being damaged in a storm. Pulpit has been lowered (was formerly on a level with the balcony [Pamphlet of the First Church of Deerfield]. Organ built c. 1871 and installed in 1888; balcony enlarged to accommodate it [Brown, "Old Deerfield Organ has First Major Overhauling"].
6. Important old views:
 - a. Lithograph, c. 1850; in third floor of Library of Memorial Hall, Deerfield, Mass.
 - b. 5" x 7" photograph, view from south, by Louisa Dresel, c. 1907; in small black album, Memorial Hall, Deerfield, Mass.

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7. Sources of information:

- a. Pamphlet of the First Church of Deerfield, available at the church.
- b. George Sheldon, A History of Deerfield, Mass., 1636-1886 (Greenfield, Massachusetts: E. A. Hall and Company, 1895-1896), vol. 2, pp. 801-803.
- c. Gladys Brown, "Old Deerfield Organ has First Major Overhauling," Greenfield Recorder-Gazette, August 29, 1958, p. 10.

Prepared by Harley J. McKee, Architect
National Park Service
September 1959

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: Representative and well proportioned. Nearly all original. Mouldings show Greek-influenced profiles on otherwise Roman-influenced Orders.
2. Condition of fabric: Excellent throughout. Original except where floor joists have been strengthened and replaced; girders strengthened.

B. Technical Description of Exterior:

1. Overall dimensions: One-story auditorium with gallery, 55' x 66'.
2. Foundations: Field stone below grade; brick, faced with granite ashlar, above grade. Field stone shows on rear (west) elevation--no granite on that side.
3. Wall construction: Load-bearing--solid brick, lime-sand mortar. Flemish bond on east front, common bond on other sides.
4. Chimneys: None extant. Evidence that flues once were used, within thickness of west wall.
5. Openings:
 - a. Doorways and doors: Semicircular brick arches over; wood trim and paneled doors, fanlights over. Stone thresholds. In the attic are preserved two fan shutters which were formerly over the front doors; one for the central opening, one (of two, presumably) for a side opening.

- b. Windows and shutters: 12/12 and 16/12 double-hung wood sash; wood trim. Flat brick arches over window openings. Stone sills. Louvred shutters.

6. Roof:

- a. Shape, covering: Gable roof, covered with slate. One sawn wooden shingle from original roof covering is preserved in Memorial Hall museum.
- b. Framing: Heavy hewn timber trusses and frame, pegged joints.
- c. Cornice, eaves: Wooden cornices. Pediments on front (east) elevation; returns at corners on rear (west) elevation.

C. Technical Description of Interiors:

- 1. Floor plans: Rectangular (nearly square) auditorium with gallery on three sides, pulpit on fourth (east) side. Vestibule at first floor and gallery levels. Basement space unused.
- 2. Stairways: One simple stair (open) at each end of vestibule. Rough attic and basement stairs.
- 3. Flooring: Wood, random-width boards. Auditorium floor carpeted.
- 4. Wall and ceiling finish: Plaster, painted.
- 5. Doorways and doors: Wood paneled.
- 6. Trim: Wood, moulded. Painted. Note: pulpit has been lowered; central pews thought to be later, outer pews original.
- 7. Hardware: Wrought iron. Thumb latches. Door hinges strap.
- 8. Lighting: Electric--modern fixtures.
- 9. Heating: Original heating, if any, not in evidence. Formerly, a warm-air furnace was used; now steam from the Deerfield Academy steam plant warms air in a plenum chamber, which is circulated through floor registers.

D. Site:

- 1. General setting and orientation: On village street at a rise in the ground. The main front of the church faces toward east. Pulpit and entrance are both at the east.

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2. Enclosures: None.
3. Outbuildings: None.
4. Walks: Granite steps lead up to main (east) front. Narrow concrete walk along north side (leading to nothing apparent now).
5. Landscaping: Grass, trees, and vines--very informal.

Prepared by Harley J. McKee, Architect
National Park Service
August 1959

Addendum to:
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Data pages 1 through 4 were previously transmitted to the Library of Congress. This is data page 5.

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One survey control contact print per plate; survey control
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LC-HABS-GS07-T-1116-501L * EAST ELEVATION

LC-HABS-GS07-T-1116-501R EAST ELEVATION

Left and right overlap: 75%

LC-HABS-GS07-T-1116-502L* NORTH ELEVATION

LC-HABS-GS07-T-1116-502R NORTH ELEVATION

Left and right overlap: 85%

FIRST CHURCH OF DEERFIELD
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Data (Page 6)

LC-HABS-GS07-T-1116-503L SOUTH ELEVATION

LC-HABS-GS07-T-1116-503R * SOUTH ELEVATION

Left and right overlap: 70%

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